Poor Catering in Superfast Trains

1542. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received about poor catering facilities in Superfast and Rajdhani trains during 1999-2000;

(b) the steps taken to improve the facilities and quality of food;

(c) whether any inspection and surprise spot inspection is done regularly;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) During 1999-2000, 859 complaints regarding poor catering facilities in Superfast/Rajdhani/ Shatabdi Express trains were received.

(b) In order to bring improvement in standard and quality of catering services, Railway has taken various steps *viz.* introduction of three-piece casserole packed meal in place of thali meals, introduction of eco-friendly packaging materials, supply of curd in kulkarhs, ensuring quality of mineral water, review of menu and services of Rajdhani/Shatabdi and other superfast trains.

(c) and (d) Regular inspections are carried out by divisional/zonal and Board's officials, Besides special drives are being organised from time to time. Senior railway officers, conduct surprise checks/ inspections to ensure improvement in catering services. Complaints received are investigated and suitable action taken against the defaulters. A catering monitoring cell has also been set up in Board's office to deal with public complaints.

(e) Does not arise.

Revision of Science & Technology Policy

1543. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to revise its policy on Science and Technology;

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(b) if so, the steps teken to draft the new National Policy on Science and Technology;

(c) the salient features of the new ideas proposed to be incorporated in the new National Policy on Science and Technology; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d).

The Scientific Policy Resolution, 1958 and the Technology Policy Statement, 1983 contain the basic framework of Government's policy on Science & Technology. However, in keeping with rapid scientific and technology advancements in the world and in terms of India's short term, medium term and long term requirements, Science and Technology policies are continually reshaped and remodeled through a variety of interventions, administrative and fiscal.

The various scientific and technology bodies such as academies, professional institutions and scientific fora also provide inputs in the formulation of S&T policies. The Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet and the Consultative Group of Eminent Scientists and the Consultative Group of Government departments/agencies on S&T also consider various elements of Science and Technology Policy.

Within the above mentioned broad framework, the Science & Technology policy and programme are continually reviewed and updated for implementation so as to adjust to the developments and trends in Science & Technology world over as well as the short term, medium term and long term national interests.

Projects under technology vision 2020

1544. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have increased current year's budget allocation for Science and Technology by more than 20 percent as compared to last year;